

Association; the National District Attorneys Association, the California District Attorneys Association, and the National District Attorneys Association. He is part of the Federal Pro Bono Project and a current member of the Betty Kwan Chinn Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, Paul Gallegos' dedication to law and the community of Humboldt County is commendable and worthy of recognition. I urge my colleagues to join me in extending our congratulations to him.

AFRICA'S GREAT LAKES REGION: A SECURITY, POLITICAL, AND HUMANITARIAN CHALLENGE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, to say that the Great Lakes region of Africa is troubled would be an understatement. Burundi is experiencing continued turmoil due to a recent contentious election. The Democratic Republic of the Congo, or DRC, has had some level of conflict since the late 1990s. The Lord's Resistance Army, also known as the LRA, has plagued several of these countries. Alleged plundering of DRC resources by Rwanda and Uganda have never been fully resolved. Nations in the region have been preoccupied in the last two years with resolving the South Sudan civil war.

Definitions vary, but the Great Lakes region, as defined by the U.S. Department of State, comprises Burundi, the DRC, Rwanda, and Uganda. The region is among the most densely populated in Africa, especially around Lake Victoria and Lake Tanganyika, and enjoys rich agricultural potential, water resources, minerals, and wildlife. However, political instability, conflict, humanitarian crises, and a lack of development remain key challenges.

These four countries are the purview of the U.S. Special Envoy to the Great Lakes, Tom Perriello, whom we had before my subcommittee yesterday. We also had Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas-Greenfield, who has spent a great deal of her time in office dealing with Great Lakes issues.

Yesterday's hearing offered an opportunity to hear from these administration officials not only about continuing U.S. efforts to extinguish the LRA threat, but also the administration's work with governments in the region on issues such as peace building, governance and adherence to international human rights and democracy standards.

In our subcommittee hearings over the last three years, we have uncovered numerous troubling situations:

Even with the supposed end of operations by the M23 militia in eastern DRC in late 2013, there are several other militias still causing instability in the region.

The Kabila government in the DRC is reportedly using a ban on completing foreign adoptions as leverage to ward off actions to prevent him from prolonging his rule despite a constitutional bar to any reelection bid.

Burundi President Pierre Nkurunziza's decision to run for a third term, which some Burundians and outside observers viewed as a violation of a landmark peace agreement—

and, arguably, the Constitution of Burundi—has led to a political crisis and heightened concerns about regional stability.

Human rights abuses in Rwanda were found to be targeted toward real or perceived political opponents prior to 2012, but after 2012, such abuses were seen as more random, expanding the targets of the regime.

Maj. Robert Higero, a retired Rwandan military officer, told our subcommittee on May 20th about his solicitation by the Rwandan intelligence chief to kill to high-level defectors. He turned against the government and informed the targets who asked him to record the offer. He did, and the recording was validated by the Globe and Mail in Canada and the British Broadcasting Corporation. The State Department has not only found the allegations to be credible but warned Maj. Higero to leave Belgium where his life was in danger.

Although LRA killings have diminished in the past few years, kidnappings by the group have risen as it operates in smaller, scattered cells, using more adults as temporary labor. One witness at our hearing last month said an end to the U.S. support for the counter-LRA effort would be "devastating."

We have heard of the difficulties of addressing issues in this troubled region of Africa by both government and private witnesses over the past few years. However, the fates of these countries are interconnected, and our policies need to take this into account.

There are numerous issues in the Great Lakes countries that require examination, and we discussed yesterday what should be a coordinated U.S. policy in this region and we heard from our witnesses what the prospects are for this policy to be implemented.

IN HONOR OF MR. WILLIAM OSBORNE'S ACHIEVEMENTS

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2015

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the accomplishments of Mr. William Osborne, as he retires from a long career spanning both the private and public sectors. Whichever job he held, it was clear that Mr. Osborne always had Georgia and its citizens on his mind.

Originally a journalist, Mr. Osborne graduated from the University of Georgia's journalism school with distinction and went on to work at the Atlanta Journal. After a few years, Mr. Osborne left the Journal to direct and help establish DeKalb County's Research-Information office. The office was one of the first public information offices in the United States of America. When the National Association of Counties established their own public information office, Mr. Osborne was chosen to be vice president by his colleagues.

Almost concurrently, he established the City of Atlanta's public information office and held the position for a few months before setting his sights on helping to improve the education system in Atlanta and Conyers. As Director of Information and Community Relations and later of Evaluation and Dissemination of Pupil Personnel Services, he undertook the effort of desegregating and integrating Atlanta public schools in the 1960's.

He has helped to develop and improve communities and cities throughout metro Atlanta as a consultant and throughout the southern United States as a part of the Council of State Governments. Mr. Osborne has advocated for citizens and the improvement of Georgia as well as throughout the United States.

Mr. Osborne served as Executive Director for the Southern Governor's Association and maintained their Atlanta office, working with 19 Governors and their key staff members.

As the City Manager for Douglasville, for which he was reappointed 24 times, Mr. Osborne saw the city triple in population size. He worked with three different mayors and 30 different city council members. He oversaw and guided the city as its budget quadrupled in size. Under Mr. Osborne's guidance and leadership Douglasville has continued to grow and prosper. He will certainly be missed by all who have had the honor of working with him.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Mr. Osborne and to commend his passion and dedication for the local government and citizens not only in Douglasville but throughout the State of Georgia. I ask my colleagues to join me in venerating this distinguished colleague and his service to the people of Georgia.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S DAISY STEED

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Daisy Steed on the occasion of her retirement as Manager of Ellyson Industrial Park in Pensacola, Florida. For more than 30 years, Ms. Steed has dedicated her life to serving the Northwest Florida community, and I am pleased to honor her outstanding achievements.

Ms. Steed first came to Escambia County in 1982 after serving 17 years with the City of Hartselle, Alabama, where she served in various capacities, including as interim City Manager. An assiduous worker, Ms. Steed also held many different positions in Escambia County, one year serving in five different capacities, before she was called on to help develop Ellyson Industrial Park and Marcus Pointe Commerce Park. As a result of her acumen, work ethic, and dedication to serving her community, Ms. Steed was named "Employee of the Month" several times, and, in 1997, she was selected as "Employee of the Year" in recognition of her excellent performance, courtesy, and professionalism.

During her career managing Ellyson Industrial Park, Ms. Steed was instrumental in recruiting more than 20 companies to the park, helping to bring jobs and bolster economic development in the Gulf Coast region. Ms. Steed's success and dedication is also exemplified by her work securing funding to help build a new National Guard Armory. As a strong supporter of our military and National Guard, and in recognition of her efforts to help shepherd the construction of the National Guard Armory, Ms. Steed was one of a select group of civilians to be awarded the "Leadership Award" from Major General Harrison.